



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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VIRGINIA BIOLOGIST HEADS FWS FISHERY RESEARCH PROGRAM

Dr. John Laurence McHugh, Director of the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory at Gloucester Point since 1951 and Professor of Marine Biology at the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, has assumed his duties as Chief of the Division of Biological Research of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

He replaces Dr. Albert L. Tester who resigned several months ago to accept a professorship at the University of Hawaii.

Dr. McHugh was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, November 24, 1911. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Zoology from the University of British Columbia. In 1950 he received his Ph. D. in Zoology from the University of California.

Before coming to his Virginia position, Mr. McHugh served as Research Associate at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at LaJolla, California, for three years and as assistant in research for two years before that. Before coming to California he served almost 5 years as an Infantry Officer in the Canadian Army. He saw service in England and France, and was wounded in August 1944 in the battle of the Falaise gap.

Prior to his Army service, Dr. McHugh was with the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, British Columbia.

Dr. McHugh is the author of 52 biological papers, some of which he co-authored with Dr. Tester when they were working together in Canada. He has done extensive herring research in the Pacific fisheries. He has several papers on sharks and some on albacore as well as other papers on fresh-water fishes. Since coming to Virginia he has devoted considerable time to research on oysters, menhaden, and other Atlantic fish and shellfish. Since 1956 he has been Chairman of the Biological Section of the Scientific Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Division of Biological Research is engaged in studying the fluctuations in the numbers of fish available in the various fisheries utilized by American fishermen. The purpose of the program is to recommend conservation measures which

will maintain continuing production without hampering fishing operations, and to predict changes in abundance sufficiently in advance to minimize their effects upon dependent industries. The areas under study encompass the waters of the Great Lakes, the Atlantic Ocean from the Grand Banks to Florida, the Gulf of Mexico and the eastern, northern, and central Pacific. In addition to numerous biological laboratories located in strategic places along the coast lines and in Alaska, the Division has research vessels based at Woods Hole, Mass., LaJolla, California, Honolulu, T. H., and Juneau, Alaska.

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